

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Prior to calculation of the filing fee, please amend the above identified patent application as follows:

In the Claims

Claim 3, line 12, delete "or Claim 2".

Claim 4, line 15, delete "any one of the preceding claims" and insert -Claim 1--.

Claim 5, line 18, delete "Claims 3 and 4" and insert -Claim 3--.

Claim 6, line 20, delete "any one of the preceding claims" and insert - Claim 1--.

Claim 7, line 1, delete "any one of the preceding claims" and insert -Claim 1--.

Claim 8, line 3, delete "any one of the preceding claims" and insert -Claim 1--.

Claim 11, line 17, delete "or Claim 10".

Claim 12, line 19, delete "Claims 9 to 11" and insert -Claim 9--.

Claim 13, line 22, delete "Claims 9 to 12" and insert -Claim 9--.

Claim 14, line 26, delete "Claims 9 to 13" and insert -Claim9--.

Claim 16, line 6, delete "Claims 9 to 15" and insert -Claim 9--.

Claim 17, line 9, delete "Claims 9 to 16" and insert -Claim 9--.

Claim 18, line 15, delete "Claims 9 to 17" and insert -Claim 9--.

Claim 19, line 18, delete "Claims 9 to 18" and insert -Claim 9--.

Claim 20, line 20, delete "Claims 9 to 19" and insert -Claim 9--.

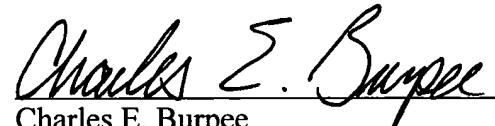
Claim 21, line 23, delete "Claims 9 to 20" and insert -Claim 9--.

Claim 22, line 1, delete "Claims 9 to 21" and insert -Claim 9--.

Respectfully submitted,

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